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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 08ATHENS985, GREECE/IRAN: GREECE WON'T HINDER EU CONSENSUS ON

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08ATHENS985**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08ATHENS985	2008-07-10 13:17	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Athens

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.tanea.gr>

VZCZCXRO3793
OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDIR RUEHKUK
DE RUEHTH #0985 1921317
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 101317Z JUL 08
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2141
INFO RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0357

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 000985

SIPDIS

DEPT ALSO FOR NEA, EUR/ERA, AND EUR/SE
BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/09/2018
TAGS: [EFIN](#) [ETRD](#) [ETTC](#) [EU](#) [GR](#) [IR](#) [KCRM](#) [KNNP](#) [KTFN](#)
PARM, PGOV, PINR, PREL, PTER, SNAR, TRGY, UNSC
SUBJECT: GREECE/IRAN: GREECE WON'T HINDER EU CONSENSUS ON
IRAN SANCTIONS BUT NOT GOING TO HELP

REF: A. USEU - NEMROFF/HOVENIER E-MAIL OF JULY 8
[1](#)B. ATHENS 874 AND PREVIOUS
[1](#)C. ATHENS 925

¶1. (C) DCM spoke July 10 with MFA Secretary General Agathocles to inquire about the Greek position on the EU package of measures to implement UNSCR 1803; DCM said that we understood many in the EU were supportive of a common position with robust measures, but that Greece and a few others were expressing skepticism. The DCM underscored the importance of increasing the financial pressure on Iran, and asked for Greece to look carefully and positively in Brussels at a more robust package of measures. Agathocles said that Greece "will not block consensus on this issue," and will follow whatever emerges in Brussels. He added, however, that the recent story in the "New York Times" citing U.S. Pentagon sources that a recent joint Greek-Israeli military exercise had been meant by Israel to be a warning to Iran (ref C), made Greece "more cautious" in its Iran policy. Agathocles added that Greece had some specific problems with some of the items in the proposed EU package, citing provisions related to "ship searches" and "banks." That said, he reiterated that the Greek EU Mission has instructions not to impede any EU consensus, should one emerge.

¶2. (C) A/Pol Counselor followed up with MFA Iran Desk Officer Gregory Karahailos. Karahailos confirmed that the Greek MFA had "just completed" a review of its policy on this issue with Agathocles, and that the instructed position to the Greek Mission in Brussels was "not to push, but not to block any consensus." Greece is of two minds -- it is concerned about Iranian activities, but is not convinced that further sanctions will have any meaningful effect. Karahailos added that some in the GOG questioned whether it would be "wise" to agree to sanctions that go beyond the UNSC resolution. However, Greece has now agreed it "can agree to this, should that be the EU consensus." Karahailos added, frankly, that we should not expect Greece to do much more than be passive in this debate. Karahailos also clarified that Greece does have "a problem" with provisions in the package that would allow for "unscheduled inspections" of ships. Citing the importance and influence of the Greek shipowners, Karahailos said Greece has concerns with these provisions, as they could lead to shipping delays, resulting in additional costs and possibly even potential claims against the government. A/Pol Counselor underscored the robust steps the U.S. has taken to implement 1803, reiterated the importance of the EU doing the same, and emphasized our request that Greece actively support an EU decision on a robust package of measures.

SPECKHARD